

# Enjoying my Strawberries



Melissa Luse

**It was** my pleasure to work along side my fellow Montessori alumni at my senior internship at Wilton High School this spring. The senior internship program offers seniors the opportunity to select an organization that they would like to work with and learn about during the last 6 weeks of their senior year. I reached out to Bashar Nabulsi (class of 2003) about an internship opportunity because I had known him through my sister Mary's years at The Montessori School (class of 2003). After speaking with Bashar, I was even more excited to learn that I would also be working with Alec and Ian Ross, other students from the Montessori school. Together Bashar, Alec, and Ian started a t-shirt company called Slothin while they were at Wilton High School. The idea behind Slothin is that people move too fast through their

lives, not stopping to enjoy the good stuff, the stuff that makes life worth living. At Slothin, we moved through life a little slower, taking extra time to appreciate the simple things along the way; family, good friends and great times.

I can remember one day in Lower Elementary when Elizabeth was reading a book to the class as we all sat on the rug. One student kept asking Elizabeth "what happens next?" and "how many pages are you going to read?" Elizabeth and Vicki's response to these questions is something that has clearly stayed with me to this day. They both said, "enjoy your strawberries". As a 10 year old I didn't quite understand what that was supposed to mean, but after working for Slothin I have come to realize what they were trying to tell us. Much like Slothin, enjoying your strawberries symbolizes enjoying the moment and appreciating the time in which you are in right now.

Connecting the two spheres of my life, Montessori and Wilton High School, is something I really struggle to do. Not many people understand what Montessori is or why I feel so passionate about certain things like service, the treatment of others, and community. When I happened to find this connec-

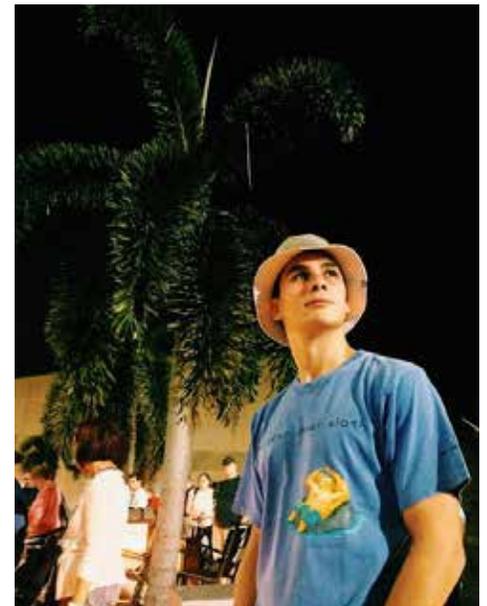
tion of the two spheres with Bashar and Alec, I couldn't overlook it. Something many Montessori alumni share is the love of discovering others with the same values and background in unexpected places. I didn't know Alec or Ian when I first started working at Slothin and I hadn't talked to Bashar since I was in Primary, but Montessorians simply have a way of taking care of each other and instantly bonding. Montessori has instilled in me a sense of community, giving back and enjoying what is in front of me. This is something that will never fade and my experience with Slothin is a perfect example of this sentiment.

—Melissa Luse,

*The Montessori School, class of 2011*



Alec Ross



Bashar Nabulsi